



September Newsletter 2019

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to school for our new school year. It was lovely to see how much the pupils from year 1 to year 6 enjoyed their first day back on our trip to the Beacon of Light. The children thoroughly enjoyed themselves, reaffirming friendships and getting to know their new teachers, whilst joining in team building and sporting activities to settle into their new classes. It was fantastic to see how smart the children and staff looked in their new purple PE t-shirts! The staff at the Beacon of Light commented on how well behaved the children were and how well they had represented our school.

Our Early Years also enjoyed a brilliant day out at Adventure Valley on Friday after having the time in class this week to settle in. We welcome our two new Reception classes, The Dragonflies and Fireflies who enjoyed exploring the school on their first day, while the rest of the school were at the Beacon of Light.

I would like to extend a special welcome to those children who have joined us from other schools. We have Oliver, Parker and Charlie joining us in Year 1 and Year 2. I know they have had a great time bonding with their new classes last week and trust they will be happy at our school. We also welcome 2 new members of staff to our school family. Miss Hope joins Year 6 and Mrs Pells joins Year 4.

I hope you will join me in looking forward to the busy term ahead and the exciting activities it will bring for the children and their families. As there is so much happening this term, each class will produce a letter with specific dates on so that you will be aware of the arrangements for your child's class rather than all the school diary dates together.

Please find below just some of the new initiatives and activities that will be taking place this term.

Mrs J.M. Clark Head Teacher



**FOUNDATION
OF LIGHT**

Sunderland Family Learning

To continue our partnership with the Beacon of Light and to follow on from our activity day, there will be a Family Learning programme for Key Stage 2 children and their family member taking place in our school. It aims to support our families through a range of fun, interactive sessions to help parents, grandparents and carers with their child's development and strengthen the family bond. At the end of the programme, everyone will be invited to the Beacon of Light for a graduation to celebrate their achievements. The programme will take place on a Wednesday afternoon from 1-3pm and will last for 10 weeks. It will be starting on Wednesday 24th September. More details will follow where you will be able to confirm your place.



Modern Foreign Languages

This year our children in Classes 3L, 3S, 4L, 4E, 5, 6I & 6H will benefit from learning Spanish with an instructor from Lingotots. We feel this will benefit our children and families and the children are looking forward to learning a new language. Some classes have already had their first session which they really enjoyed.



The Railway Children

We are looking forward to welcoming back M&M theatre productions into our school on Thursday 19th September to perform 'The Railway Children' for our Year 2-6 children and inspire them to explore this classic piece of literature.

HARVEST FESTIVAL

This year we look forward to holding a Harvest Festival with Father Kyle to help in supporting our community. Children in Years 2-6 will be performing a song or poem in a special assembly to their parents. We ask that children bring in either tinned or dried food which will be donated to a food bank. Our Harvest Festival will take place on Friday 11th October. The assembly for the upper school (Years 4, 5 and 6) will be held at 9am with the assembly for the lower school (Years 2 and 3) to follow at 10.30am. We hope you will be able to join us in school for this celebration.



Halloween Parties



This year our Halloween parties for both Key Stage One and Key Stage Two will take place on Thursday 24th October during the afternoon from 1 - 3pm. We know that these are very popular and hope everyone has a 'spooktacular' time!



Pupils from Years 3 - 6 are invited to watch a production of 'Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat' at Billingham Forum theatre on Wednesday 13th November. The cost will be £5 per child.



Shhhh! It's the 'C' word...

Date for your diary - Our **Christmas Fayre** will be held on **Friday 6th December**



As many of you will be aware, we really enjoy celebrating Christmas in our school and every class from Blackhall Butterflies (2 year olds) up to Year 6 will be involved in a Christmas nativity, performance or singing Christmas songs. Look out for the dates on your child's class letter.

Parent Reminders

- Earrings are **not** permitted in school. If your child comes to school wearing earrings that cannot be removed, they will have to stay in during playtimes and lunchtime and will not be able to take part in PE or swimming lessons which are part of the National Curriculum.
- Please do not park on the yellow zig-zag lines outside the school gates to enable our children to enter and exit the school yard safely.
- Children need to be supervised in the yard on a morning until they enter the building at 8.55am and are not permitted on the school field or trim trail until after school.
- When pupils are entering the building, could parents please stand clear of the doors and remember to speak to teachers regarding longer queries at the end of the day.

Statutory Assessments

Dates for your calendar:

Year 6 SATs: Monday 11th - Thursday 14th May

Year 2 SATs: Tuesday 5th - Friday 22nd May

Year 1 Phonics Check: Monday 8th June.

Year 4 Multiplication - Tables Check: Monday 8th June - Friday 26th June

Term dates

Autumn term 1: Tuesday 3rd September - Friday 25th October

Autumn Term 2: Monday 4th November - Friday 20th December

Spring Term 1: Tuesday 7th January - Friday 14th February

Spring Term 2: Monday 24th February - Friday 3rd April

Summer Term 1: Tuesday 21st April - Friday 22nd May

May Day: Monday 7th May

Summer Term 2: Monday 1st June - Thursday 16th July

Teacher Training Days

Monday 6th January

Monday 20th April

Friday 17th July

Monday 20th July